

Hepton Rural
District Council

Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

AND
Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE
Year Ending December 31st, 1944.

Hebden Bridge:

Kershaw and Ashworth Ltd., Market Street.



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HEPTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Holme House, Hebden Bridge.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Hepton
Rural District Council**

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Hepton Rural District for the year 1944.

In accordance with the provisions of the Ministry of Health Circular 10/44, dated 15th February, 1944, and circular 49/45 of 19th March, 1945, the report has been curtailed, and is an interim report.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year:—

Live Births	{	Total M F			}	Birth-rate per 1000 estimated Resident Civilian Population, 15.47
		Legitimate ...	56	23	33	
	{	Illegitimate...	2	2	0	}

Still Births	{	Total M F			}	Rate per 1000 (live and still) Total births 0.00
		Legitimate ...	0	0	0	
	{	Illegitimate...	0	0	0	}

Estimated Resident Civilian Population 1944: 3,747.

	Total	M	F	Death-rate per 1000 estimated Resident Civilian Population, 13.61
Deaths	54	25	29	

Live Birth Rate (England & Wales) 17.6 per 1000 Civilian Population.

Still Birth Rate (England & Wales) 0.50 per 1000 Civilian Population.

Death Rate (England and Wales) 11.60 per 1000 Civilian Population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

	Births	Total (Live & still) Births Rate per 1000
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.00
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	0.00	0.00

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—

Legitimate	Total 4	Males 2	Females 2
Illegitimate	Total 0	Males 0	Females 0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births:—

Legitimate 71. Illegitimate 0.00. All Infants 68.96.

Death Rate Infants under 1 year per 1000 live births:—

England and Wales 43

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0
„ Cancer (all ages)	6
„ Heart Diseases (all ages)	19
„ Influenza	0
„ Diphtheria	0
„ Suicide	0
„ Road Traffic Accidents	0
„ Pneumonia (all types)	1
„ Scarlet Fever	0

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer, who also acts as Public Vaccinator and District M.O. under the Poor Law Act.

The Sanitary Officer is a full-time Officer; and other Public Health Officers, such as Veterinary Surgeons, Public Analysts, etc., come under the control of the West Riding County Council.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

This is principally carried out by the two District Nurses attached to the Hebden Bridge District Nursing Institution. These two Nurses are qualified both in General and Maternity Nursing. They attend confinements at a small fixed fee. Arrangements are now in force whereby a

Nurse can be provided by the West Riding County Council for the nursing of infectious diseases in the home, in the event of there being no hospital accommodation for such cases.

The Institution receives a subsidy from the Ministry of Health towards the cost of running the Maternity Service. It has no connection with the Local Authority. Midwives: The two District Nurses referred to are the only practising midwives in the area.

The Local Authority makes no subsidy towards practising midwives.

There was no change in this service during the year.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield. Autogenous vaccines and sera are supplied free of charge to local medical men requiring same.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied by your Council free of charge to any medical practitioner requiring it.

The investigation of maternal deaths, and cases of puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia, is undertaken by the County Medical Officer of Health.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Infectious cases are removed by an Ambulance from the Fever Hospital free of charge. Non-infectious and accident cases are removed by an ambulance jointly owned by the Hepton Rural Council and Hebden Royd Urban Council. Subscribers to the Hebden Bridge and District Nursing Institution are entitled to free use of the Ambulance—there is a nominal charge made for non-subscribers. The present Gift Ambulance is in my opinion, no longer suitable for the work in this area.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre established in Hebden Bridge. A Clinic for mothers and babies is held once weekly, under the supervision of a Lady Doctor and two Nurses. The attendances at this Clinic have increased considerably in recent years. An additional Clinic is held in Hebden Bridge on Thursdays at 2 p.m. for evacuees and school children.

An Ante-Natal Clinic is being well attended. It is under the supervision of a Lady Doctor, and is held on the first, second and third Friday of each month at 1-30 p.m.

School Clinics are held twice weekly, Monday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at this Centre, and are attended by the Health Nurse.

Arrangements have been made by the County Council whereby pre-school and school children can be immunised free of charge either at suitable centres or at the schools or by their own medical attendant.

The "Welcome" Diphtheria Prophylactic A.P.T. is used for inoculation, and two injections are given at monthly intervals. The results so far as I can ascertain have been excellent.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries are held weekly at both Todmorden and Sowerby Bridge. The distance to either of these dispensaries is about four miles from most parts of this area.

The nearest treatment centre for venereal diseases is at the Royal Halifax Infirmary. Other free treatment Clinics being at Burnley and Keighley.

The Clinics referred to are under the control of the West Riding County Council.

There was no change during the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During the year 1944 the district was free from any serious epidemics of disease, nor was there much incidence of notifiable disease, but there was a marked prevalence of minor sickness, with prolonged convalescence showing a general lowering of recuperative powers. Four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year; these cases were of a sporadic type occurring as single incidents throughout the year. There was a minor epidemic of measles during the last quarter of the year, when 37 cases were notified, 7 cases were notified in the third quarter of the year. I am still of the opinion regarding the fevers, measles and whooping cough that the number of cases notified does not at all cover the cases occurring. Many parents do not

still realise that it is their legal duty to call in the family doctor in any suspected case now that these diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your area. This failure on the part of parents makes it impossible to check or control epidemics, or make any accurate survey of these diseases. No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year. The campaign against Diphtheria was carried on successfully throughout the year, and on December 31st, 1944, 78 per cent. of the under 5 group, and 88.9 per cent. of the 5-15 group of the child population in your area had completed a full course of prophylactic treatment. This campaign is kept alive in the area by the local welfare visitors who call on the parents, reminding them of the vital necessity and importance of this treatment. Each child also receives a birthday card on its first birthday, stressing the importance of such treatment. These cards are sent at the expense of the Local Authority. Scabies still proved troublesome during the year and recurred in a few cases previously treated. 30 cases notified to the Public Health Department were treated free of charge, four at the Todmorden Clinic and 26 at the Halifax General Hospital, Treatment Centre, Out-Patients' Department. During the year propaganda against V.D. was carried out by the distribution of leaflets and posters, and in this connection a lecture and film show were given at the Picture House, Hebden Bridge, early in December under the auspices of the Central Council for Health Education.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1944

DISEASE	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	4	4	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Measles	45	4	0
Ophthalmia N�enatorum	0	0	0

Disease.	Age Periods.										
	0	1	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65 or over
Scarlet Fever ...			2	1			1				
Diphtheria											
Enteric Fever ...											
Pneumonia									1		
Erysipelas								1			
Puerperal Pyrexia											
Smallpox											
Whooping Cough											
Measles	1	12	29	3							

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	...	...	...	...	..	..	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	1	...	..	...	..
25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	..	..	..	1	1	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Totals ...	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0

There were 2 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year, and neither of these cases had been notified previously to me.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was deemed necessary to be taken under these Regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172

No action has been found necessary to be taken under this Section during 1944.

Statement of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year 1944.

NAME OF DISTRICT—HEPTON RURAL

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained.		Cases removed to Hospital.	
0	Smallpox	0	Smallpox
4	Scarlet Fever	4	Scarlet Fever
0	Diphtheria, including Mem. Group	0	Diphtheria
0	Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding para-typhoid)	0	Enteric Fever
0	Paratyphoid		
1	Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	4	Measles (Evacuee Hostels)
0	Puerperal Pyrexia		
0	Cerebro-Spinal Fever		
0	Acute Poliomyelitis		
0	Acute Polio-Encephalitis		
0	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica		
0	Dysentery		
0	Ophthalmia Neonatorum		
1	Erysipelas		
1	Respiratory Tuberculosis (new cases only)		
1	Other forms of Tuberculosis (new cases only)		
0	Contracted in this Country		
0	Contracted Abroad		
0	Induced in Institutions†		
x	Chickenpox		
45	Measles (excluding German Measles or Rubella)		
0	Whooping Cough		

Chickenpox.—Was this disease compulsorily notifiable in your district during the year 1944?—No.

If so, please state period If it was not compulsorily notifiable, but was known to be prevalent during 1944, please write a "x" in the appropriate column of the above table.

Respiratory and Other Forms of Tuberculosis.—Under these heading include only the numbers of primary cases; notifications of institutional admissions and discharges should not be included.

† Notified under the proviso to Article 5 of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1927.

(Signed) F. J. DOWDAL, Medical Officer of Health.

EVACUATION

Owing to the V1 and V2's being directed against this country the year 1944 proved to be a very busy one as far as the reception of evacuees was concerned.

Four organised parties from London were received into the district, comprised of 49 unaccompanied children on the 7th July, and 56 on the 9th July. On the 12th July 17 mothers and 33 children were received, and on the 14th another 15 mothers and 31 children.

At the same time a great number of families who had previously been in the district asked if they might return and be accommodated here. The maximum number of evacuees in the district was 511 at the end of July, 1944.

Slater Ing Hostel.—Slater Ing was again re-opened with the intention that the Hostel should be used as a holiday hostel for children from other hostels in the region, but owing to the great influx of children in July it was used instead as a "Short Stay Hostel" until it was closed in October, 1944.

Burnside Sick Bay.—From July to the end of the year the accommodation in "Burnside" was in great demand, and the sick bay was usually full to capacity.

Other Hostels.—A number of evacuees also received treatment at Milner Royd, Sowerby Bridge, The Bracken, and Rydal Mount, Ilkley, and one child was at The Willows, Lothersdale, Skipton, for a period of six months.

Use was also made of Woodbank Hostel, Bingley, and Oats Royd, Sowerby Bridge, as short stay hostels.

With the assistance of the W.V.S. a Christmas Party was organised at the Heptonstall British Restaurant when some 275 guests spent a very happy time.

There were 282 evacuees in the district in December, 1944, compared with 133 in December, 1943.

On the 11th December, 1944, 15 unaccompanied children and 2 mothers, and 6 children returned home to Brighton with an organised party.

On the whole the unaccompanied children were well received by their foster parents, whilst most of the families were accommodated in requisitioned houses.

I have been most impressed by the improvement in the general health and physique of the evacuees, a real tribute to the care bestowed upon them by the people of the district.

I have the honour, Gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS JOSEPH DOWDALL,

M.B., B.Ch., B.A., O..

Medical Officer of Health.

HEPTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Year ending December 31st, 1944

Health Department,
District Bank Chambers,
Hebden Bridge.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hepton
Rural District Council

Sir and Members,—

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector to the Hepton Rural District Council, in which you will find a brief review of the work of the Department, and the sanitary conditions in the area during the year 1944.

Some of the war-time restrictions regarding the publication of certain activities of the Council have been removed, and therefore more information can be given this year.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members for the help and assistance always so readily given in the carrying out of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. WILKINSON,

M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Water Supplies

The only parts of the district provided with the Council's water supply are the village of Heptonstall, the Edge Hey Green and Colden District and certain houses in Wadsworth, Heptonstall and Eringden, which fringe on the Hebden Royd area and are supplied by that authority.

In all, some 600 houses are supplied with water from the public mains direct to the houses, no houses being supplied by means of stand pipes.

The Heptonstall water is purchased in bulk from the Halifax Corporation, and is pumped from their filter house at Hollin Hall, Wadsworth, to the Council's Service Reservoir at Cross Hill, Heptonstall. Owing to the greatly increased consumption of water in the village, the hydrant could not cope with the extra load, and steps were taken during the year to instal an electrically-operated centrifugal pump.

The consumption of water since the installation of the supply has been as follows:—

1933-4	...	1,939,000	gallons
1934-5	...	2,432,000	„
1935-6	...	2,326,000	„
1936-7	...	2,828,000	„
1937-8	...	2,326,000	„
1938-9	...	2,445,000	„
1939-40	...	3,656,000	„
1940-1	...	4,601,000	„
1941-2	...	4,450,000	„
1942-3	...	4,897,000	„
1943-4	...	4,921,000	„

Colden Supply

This supply is obtained from a well at Edge Hey Green and pumped into a small storage tank. This supply is not fully adequate and will not support the number of houses connected to it when they are converted to the water carriage system of sewage disposal. The pressure to some of the houses is very low, due mostly to the corrosion of the service pipes, several of which have had to be renewed during the year. The Council will have to consider augmenting the supply in this district as soon as circumstances permit.

Wadsworth

Apart from a few houses supplied from the neighbouring Hebden Royd authority there are no publicly owned water supplies in this Parish.

The Council are contemplating a large housing scheme in this parish immediately after the war, and the provision of a piped water supply is in their programme for the first year after the cessation of hostilities with Germany.

Charlestown

Some of the existing piped supplies in the Charlestown area are badly sewage polluted. The district is within the statutory limits of supply of the Todmorden Corporation, and negotiations have been in progress during the year for the Council to purchase water in bulk from that authority and distribute it themselves. This scheme is one of the utmost urgency.

Number of water samples taken for—

Bacteriological examinations ...	...	...	...	6
Number satisfactory ...	...	...	...	2
Number unsatisfactory ...	...	...	...	4

Public Cleansing

The work of public cleansing, refuse disposal, and salvage collecting, was carried out during the year at a cost of £1,169. Although the district is not under a direction from the Ministry of Supply to collect salvage, the following items were collected and sold during the year:—

Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.		£	s.	d.
5	15	0	0	Heavy Iron	15	16	11
2	7	0	21	Newsprint	24	16	4
17	1	2	19	Mixed Paper	103	16	3
0	5	0	0	Canvas	1	4	0
0	7	0	0	Rags	7	17	6
0	4	0	20	Bones	0	14	8
3	19	0	0	Flocks	8	15	0
12	10	0	0	Kitchen Waste	12	15	0
0	1	3	4	Metals	2	13	4
42	10	3	8	Total	£188	10	0

During the year the Council were asked to cease collections of tins and rubber, but several appeals were made to the public for increased collections of waste paper, cardboard, rags and bones.

The Council ranked third in the list of all Rural Districts in Yorkshire for the value of salvage sold per head of the population. This is a really creditable achievement, bearing in mind the high standard maintained during the war, and it is hoped that householders will continue to be salvage minded.

A special effort is being made to see that every house is provided with a proper and satisfactory dust bin, and the Council have during the year inaugurated a scheme whereby owners may purchase direct from the Council dust bins for the sum of 12s. 6d. The existing custom of providing any old boxes or tins for the storage of house refuse has many objections, and it is hoped that owners will willingly co-operate in improving the sanitary conditions of the district.

Drainage and Sewerage

During the year complaints were received from the West Riding of Yorkshire Rivers Board regarding the trade effluent being discharged into the Ibbott Royd Clough from Acre Mill, Wadsworth. Through the willing co-operation of the Cape Asbestos Co. Ltd. and the Hebden Royd Urban District Council who undertook to treat this waste at their sewerage works, a connection was made to the Council's sewer near Acre Mill.

During the year the Council considered several schemes for the provision of a drainage system in the Parish of Wadsworth. It was decided that the best solution for the treatment of the effluent in the Rural District was to take all the sewers at the Council's existing works at Kingdom Fields and to enlarge these works. The matter was, however, fully discussed with the Hebden Royd Urban District Council, and it was finally agreed that in the interests of the inhabitants of both districts, the effluent could best be treated lower down the valley. It was finally agreed that a Joint Sewerage Board be set up, and that all the effluent should be treated at the Redacre Sewage Works. The scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Health, but as yet no Order has been made.

Housing

Housing conditions in many parts of the district are very bad, and the situation has been aggravated by the large influx of evacuees.

The Council have adopted as their first year programme for post-war housing a scheme for the erection of 44 houses on the remaining land on the estate at Heptonstall.

This layout and the detailed house plans have been given much consideration by the Council and it is hoped that a start on the actual building will be made during the next year.

The Ministry of Health have also sanctioned the purchase of 18 acres of land in the Parish of Wadsworth for the purpose of housing, and as this will be required for the Council's second year programme the urgency of the Wadsworth water and drainage scheme will be appreciated.

During the year application was also made to the Ministry of Health for fifty temporary houses. When erected these houses will help to bridge the gap between the end of the war and the time when permanent houses can be built.

A number of cases of very serious overcrowding arose during the year and owing to the general housing shortage such cases were very difficult to deal with. They arose more from several families living in one house rather than extra large families occupying a small house.

Over 400 houses have now been inspected and scheduled under the Rural Housing Survey.

Town Planning

During the year the Upper Calder Valley Joint Planning Committee was formed for the purpose of preparing a town planning scheme for the constituent authorities.

FOOD INSPECTION

Milk Supply

The supervision of Dairies, Farms, and Milk supplies forms one of the major activities of the department. At the present time there are 115 registered producers of milk in the district, but of this number 30 are only registered for the production of butter and cheese and this activity has been

suspended during war time. Of the remaining 85 producers 6 hold T.T. Licences and 15 Accredited Licences, in addition there are also a number of farms at present being altered to satisfy the requirements for an Accredited Licence.

	Methylene Blue Test			Coliform Test	
	Sat.	Unsat.		Sat.	Unsat.
Accredited Milk	13	1	...	0	0
Tuberculin Tested	5	0	...	0	0
School Milk	12	0	...	0	0
Other Milk	8	0	...	7	1

On Public Health grounds it is the policy of the Council to encourage every milk producer to reach such a standard that he can receive either an accredited or a Tuberculin Tested Licence.

The Council feel that when the milk and Dairies Order is revised, the present accredited standard will be taken as the minimum standard for all milk producing farms, and they feel that it is in the interests of the farmers as well as of the general public that that standard should be attained now wherever circumstances permit.

National Milk Testing Advisory Scheme

In co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and with the Department of Agriculture at Leeds University the sampling of Producer-Retailers has been carried on with the following results:—

Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Total
398	95	27	520

Meat Inspection

The Government Slaughter House at Hebden Bridge has been closed down, and all killing is now done at Halifax.

British Restaurant

The British Restaurant at Heptonstall is still giving good service, and during the year 92,089 dinners were served.

